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PASS TO ROBERT DOMAINGUE, OES/OPA  
STATE PASS TO PATRICK COTTER, U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY  
STATE PASS TO ELIZABETH MCLANAHAN, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EFIS](#) [SENV](#) [PHSA](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA: LAND-BASED SOURCES PROTOCOL DEMARCHE  
DELIVERED

REF: STATE 80046

1. (SBU) EconOff delivered reftel message to the Ministry of Environment's Minister Carlos Costa, Vice Minister Claudia Mora, and International Relations advisor Giannina Santiago. Minister Costa recognizes the importance of the Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol and has instructed the Ministry to initiate the ratification process. Santiago added that the Ministry is preparing the necessary paperwork to present the LBS Protocol as a bill in the Colombian Congress during the current legislative period, possibly by October. Costa added that the legislative process could take between one and two years. Vice Minister Mora provided the Embassy an official response to the LBS demarche.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT OF INFORMAL TRANSLATION.

Reference: Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)

It is my pleasure to address you in this occasion with regard to the Demarche addressing the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), which we received through you from the Government of the United States.

I am pleased to inform that Colombia is a party of the Cartagena Convention since 1983, and that it has ratified the protocols "Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region" and "Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)." With regard to the LBS Protocol, as of today, there is consensus among Colombian institutions of the benefits of ratifying this instrument, which incorporates guidelines to respond to the need to protect the marine environment and human health from specific and non-specific land-based human activities that are sources of pollution.

Considering the aforementioned elements, Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested that this Ministry provide the necessary input to prepare the justification (Exposicion de Motivos) for the respective bill of law through which the instrument would be approved, and that this Vice Ministry is currently developing.

I take advantage of this occasion to mention that with regard to the issues under the scope of the LBS Protocol, our country is working on the prevention of pollution from non-specific agricultural sources through the development, since 2007, of the Regional Project, "Colombia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua - reducing pesticide run-off to the Caribbean Sea - REPCar", which has been led by this Ministry with support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This project has as its main goal to prevent and reduce

pollution from pesticide run-off in the Caribbean Sea, for which three components are currently being worked on: a) Awareness and Training Program for farmers in Colombia's Caribbean region to make adequate and rational use of agrochemicals; b) Adoption of best-practices for banana and plantain farmers; and c) Establishment of a Coastal Pesticide Monitoring Program.

I appreciate the offer to assist us with all legal and technical inquiries to continue to advance the process of ratifying the LBS Protocol.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration and regard.

Kind regards,

/s/  
CLAUDIA PATRICIA MORA PINEDA  
Vice-Minister for the Environment

END TEXT OF INFORMAL TRANSLATION.  
Brownfield